



OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL COMMANDER
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
CIVIL AIR PATROL
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AUXILIARY
MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, ALABAMA 36112-6332

9 February 2006

Dear Civil Air Patrol Members

One of the proudest moments I have experienced as your National Commander occurred this past weekend in Orlando at the Air Force Association's 22nd Air Warfare Symposium. At the formal gala before an audience of 1400 AFA members and supporters, including General William Looney, Commander of the Air Education and Training Command and seven other four-star generals, it was my great privilege to accept the Jimmy Doolittle Fellow Award from the AFA Aerospace Education Foundation.

General Ronald Keys, Commander of the Air Combat Command, presented the award to Civil Air Patrol for the outstanding contribution we have made to search and rescue. Not only were our accomplishments described in glowing terms but also our impressive Civil Air Patrol video was projected on the giant screen highlighting, for all to appreciate, the dedication of our volunteers. Throughout the evening as I had an opportunity to speak with many of the generals, Civil Air Patrol and all that our members accomplish was praised over and over.

Only two other awards were given at the banquet, one to the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center (AFRCC), the single agency responsible for all inland SAR activities, and the second to a courageous rescue unit on the frontline in Iraq. For Civil Air Patrol to be included with these exceptional honorees was a tribute to our pursuit of excellence and service to our communities and the nation. Whether we are one team searching for a downed aircraft or hundreds of volunteers tirelessly working for weeks on the Gulf Coast, the outstanding manner in which you, our volunteers, conduct our search and rescue missions displays true teamwork and the pursuit of excellence I believe is unmatched in any volunteer organization. I am very proud of all you do. I was honored to accept the Jimmy Doolittle Award on your behalf. Congratulations!

Sincerely

ANTONIO J. PINEDA
Major General, CAP
National Commander